FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917

November, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 11

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From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

A reminder, the November meeting is the normal last Thursday of the month (November 30). Thanksgiving is November 23. **Christmas Party is Sunday December 3**. ***Be there ! ! !***

Thanks to Matt Planning for M-C-ing the October meeting on user antennas. Continuing the antenna theme, this month we will get people involved by building a 2M J-pole antenna. We will discuss a little of the theory of the antenna and then get people involved (who want to be) in building their own twin lead J-pole. Jim Tromblay is donating a roll of twin-lead which he no longer needs. If you would like to build an antenna, just bring 6 feet of coax (RG-58 or whatever you like) with a connector and we will supply the tools and twin-lead and test equipment. If you just want the twin lead, that's OK too.

For those members who think we spend too much time talking about 2M. Building a J-Pole for 40 and testing it in the church basement would be a little tough. Much antenna work and experimentation occurs at VHF and UHF frequencies due to sheer size. Also if we would be needed for any local emergency work, it would take place on 2M, not 20. A portable, low cost antenna for 2M should be in every ham's gear box.

I have just received word that we have a new ARRL Central Division Director. Congratulations to George Isely, W9GIG. I will be contacting him on behalf of the club in the near future.

There is no meeting in December (Christmas party, remember). Starting in 2001, be sure to stay informed on upcoming meetings. It is possible that our meeting night could get bumped by church activities. If that happens, it

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 ±	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. Net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun Net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694**or call::

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are $15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

Our **Club/VEC Phone** no. is **(262) 797-MRAC.**

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at: **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

would not be an immediate thing, we should have 2 months notice, but it is still possible.

Also by the time you are reading this we have completed our return to conducting license classes. Thanks to Ken Caruso, Barbara Brewer, Brian White, Sherm Swanson and anyone else who helped out (all the names will be in the next newsletter). Also thanks to AES for giving us the space (and coffee too) for the classes. Hopefully we will be running a General class around February. On-air code practice should happen in January. If you are interested in helping out with the code contact John Merkl WB9PSE. If you're interested in teaching General theory, I suppose you can contact me (for now).

Since this is the last newsletter of 2000 we should reminisce about the past year (that's what all media does at the end of a year). A number of people need thanks for the work they have done but we are running out of space for this issue. Come to the Christmas Party for a public thanks to those who do work for the club (and I will try to list in January).

Saturday January 6, 2001 is the West Allis Hamfest at Waukesha Expo. MRAC should have a table there. Be sure to stop by (and maybe spend some time at it). If you have an item or two to sell you can use the club table (then be sure to spend some time at it). Would you like to be the person to set up the table? It would get you in early. If interested let me know.

Finally a few words on the repeater. Within the next few weeks of my writing this it should be back on the air. It may still need some tweaking (hams are good at that, right?), but should be open for business. It is located just northwest of the center of the city, so reasonable coverage should be had anywhere in Milwaukee County and surrounding areas. Be sure to give it a try. At the January meeting we will talk about the new installation (and some other stuff too). Warning. Once we deem the repeater fully functional, we will enter a one year test period. At the end of that year, we will make some decisions regarding any effort (and cash) expended on the machine. Also once we are fully running we will need a few control operators (the people with the control codes). If you are interested contact either myself or Matt Planning.

Finally, my stuff has gone on too long (I'm supposed to shorten it to save money on our newsletter costs), so Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah, and any other greeting which you may employ during the holiday season. Hope this year was not bad and next year is even better. See you in 2001 ("What are you doing Dave?").

David B. Welsh

Build a J-Pole Antenna

The program for the meeting this month is to build a J-Pole antenna. This is a hands/on project.

If you would like to build an antenna please bring the following:
* Segment of RG-58, 7'-long with one end terminated with a BNC (male) connector.
* Soldering Iron. (We will have a couple but you may have to wait your turn)

We will provide:
* 300 Ω (ohm)Twin-Lead (the actual antenna material).
* Side Cutter and Wire Stripper.
* SWR bridge.

Matthew Planning

Oscar 40

Satellite

Alfred Huwald - KB9SLC reports that Oscar 40 P3D Satellite is up and running as of November 16, 2000. Reception is on 145.848 MHz and the orbit is roughly SE to SW as viewed from our area.

MRAC Board Meeting 10/23/Y2K

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report — Total liquid assets $2,111.60 plus the club's CD.

Notice to Board members — The November meeting will be at Matt's QTH. The January meeting will be about antennas.

The board has agreed to make a $100.00 donation to Redemption Church to help them buy extra microphones in the near future.

Jim - WB9LNU has offered to donate the flowers for the Club Christmas party. Ken has offered to help with the name badges. We still need volunteers to help with other small details at the party.

The November board meeting will be mainly on creating a budget for next year. The 'Chatter cost the club about six and a half cents per page. The Board has decided to order 100 copies from now on instead of 200. The Emailing of the 'Chatter has reduced both our printing cost and postage. Also a reminder that next year there will be one 'Chatter every 6 weeks instead of four.

Dave and Matt say that the repeater is in the process of being installed in the new location. Should be done by the end of November.

Discussion on the upcoming Tech class and possible General classes at the beginning of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Jim - WB9LNU, Secretary

Dues 'R Due. Let's Dues It!

MRAC Club Meeting 10/26/00

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurer's report — $2111.60 in liquid assets.

Special note: Jerry Melotik's XYL still has some small items that she would like to sell.

Dave, WB9BWP, — Notice!! — The VEC group will be testing on Saturday. The Tech class at AES starts on Nov. 4th. John, WB9PSE, will do CW over the air as soon as he gets his station ready to do so.

Dec. 3rd, don't for get the Club Christmas Party. Send your money to the Club P.O. Box. The total will be $19.00. We need to know how many are coming at least two weeks before the party.

The November meeting will be on making two meter antennas out of 300 ohm lead-in. Everyone should make one.

The E-Mail version of the 'Chatter is helping very much to save the Club money on printing cost and postage. The Board will present the membership with an estimated budget for next year at the November meeting.

Special notice from Jack, W9JK. He has a 50 foot tower he will give away for free if you come and get it. Also Sue wille has a 40 foot tower that belonged to Ed, W9PWG, that she would like to sell for $60.00.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:10. Matt, KB9PRC held a discussion on antennas and decided to make some simple antennas at the November meeting.

Very special thanks to our kitchen crew and our raffle team for all their help this past year. Also special thanks to the members of the Board for a very enjoyable year and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Tough Old Cowboy

A tough old cowboy once counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning. The grandson did this religiously and he lived to the age of 93.

When he died, he left 14 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, and a 15 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.

Notes from the October, 2000, MRAC Program...

Mobile Antennas:

Outbacker:
Useable from 160m down to 2m, depending on the model selected.
Antenna ranges in cost from $150 to $400.

Screwdriver:
Useable from 80m down to 6m; reports exist of use on 160m also.

H F Antennas at Fixed Sites:
Inverted-L
Useable from 160m down to 10m with an antenna tuner.
Antenna is very inexpensive (Costs about $7 in materials).

Isotron:
Useable on 40m.

Gem-Quad:
Useable on 17m, 15m and 12m.
Costs about $200.

Gap:
Useable from 40m down to 10m.

Delta:
Useable on 10m and 6m.
Costs about $50.

Trap-Dipole:
Multi-band usage (it takes advantage of the choke principle of an inductor).

G5RV Designs
Useable from 160m down to 10m.

VHF Antennas at Fixed Sites

Hy-Gain - Six-Element Design.

Halo Array - Four Stacked Loops spaced 12.5 feet apart.

433MHz EME 33-element Beam (incredible!)

The Issue Issue

As a part of our program to reduce costs, we will be dropping back from 11 issues of the 'Chatter to eight issues a year. That means that the 'Chatter will no longer be a meeting announcement .

Unless otherwise notified, the schedule of meetings will be as follows:

January 25, 2001
February 22, 2001
March 29, 2001
April 26, 2001
May 31, 2001
June 28, 2001
July 26, 2001
August 30, 2001
September 27, 2001
October 25, 2001
November 29, 2001
December -Christmas Party?

VE Report

The MRAC-VEC held a VE session on Oct. 28, 2000 at AES. There were 6 candidates, and all were successful in either upgrading or getting their initial license. Three elements were given, and two elements were passed. VE's helping at the session included:

Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Norm McNew KB9QL
Joe Mettry AA9DO
Patrick Moretti KA1RB
Sherm Swanson KB9Q
Jerry Thompson K9SFH

MRAC-VEC held VE testing on Nov. 25, 2000. There were 7 candidates, and 6 were successful in either upgrading or getting their original license. Seven of nine elements were passed. VE's administering the exams included the following:

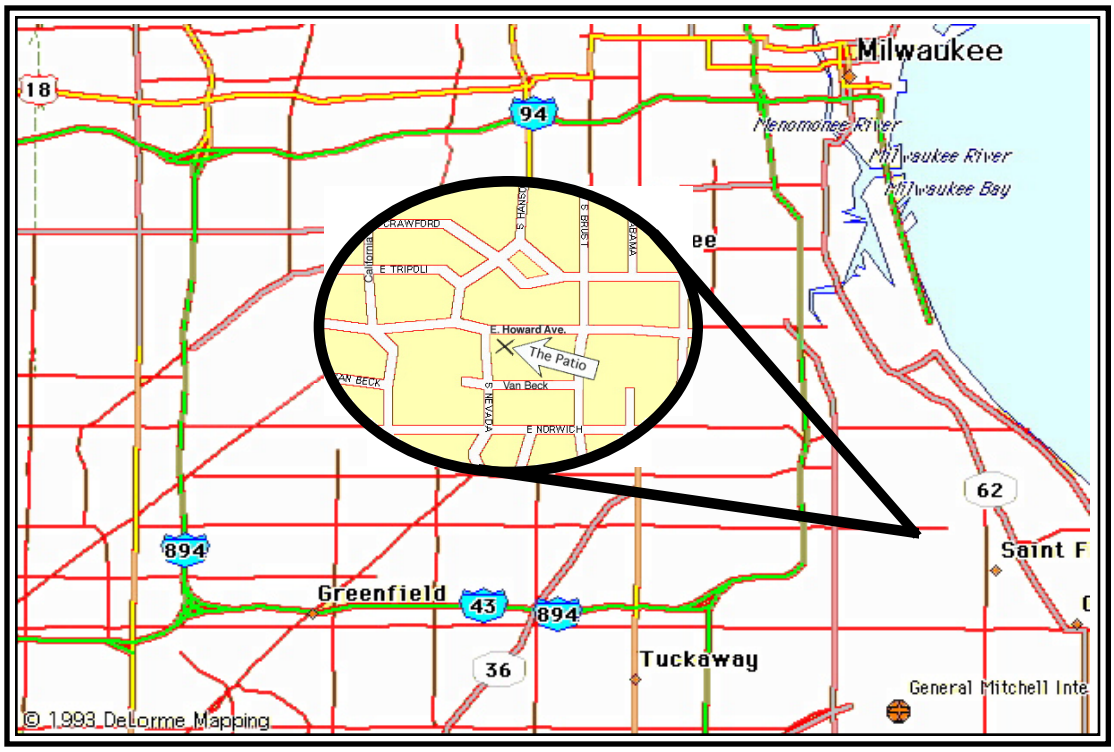
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
John Kraak KF9XL
Patrick Morretti KA1RB
Jim Tromblay WB9LNU

73,

John (KF9XL)

John KF9XL

Map to MRAC Christmas Party
December 3, 2000



Christmas Party

The MRAC Christmas party is Sunday, December 3, 2000 at the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. We will meet at 5:00 PM for socializing and Dinner at 6:00 PM. The cost will be $19.^{00} per person.

By the time that you receive this 'Chatter it will be too late to make reservations by mail for the party, so if you would like to be a part of the party try calling Lester Hundt - KB9QZQ at (414) 744-6870, ***NOW***.

Thanks to Vern Teske - W9YRA for making the arrangements for this Get-to -gether.

A HAM'S CHRISTMAS EVE

'Twas the night before Christmas and in the ham shack,
Was the warm glow of tubes in the transmitting rack.

The log book was brought up to date with great care,
In case the FCC might some day be there.

XYL and Harmonics were snug in their beds,
My strong RF waves safely from their heads.

I plugged in the mike and adjusted the VFO,
Getting all set for a late night QSO.

When up from the F layer there arose such a clatter,
I looked to the window to see what was the matter.

Then up on the roof by the forty meter beam,
There came QRM like a heterodyne scream.

On Icom, on Kenwood, on Yaesu and Ten-Tec,
On Comet, on Collins, on Alinco and Cushcraft.

Bias to the grid and volts to the plate,
Just watch the S-Meter while we all modulate.

As I turned to the rig and reached for the dial,
From the energized tuner Santa slid with a smile.

An RF choke he held tight in his teeth,
And coax encircling his head like a wreath.

A bundle of ham gear hung from his hand,
Was that MY name on a new dual band?

He had a snub nose like an egg insulator,
And his cheeks glowed bright red like a hot oscillator.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,
Laying out all the gear, then turned with a jerk.

And laying a wave meter along side of his nose,
Said, "Please QSL." and up the feeders he 'rose.

He climbed up the dipole, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like a jet propelled missile.

But I heard his last signal from the upper ionosphere,
Seventy Three, Eighty Eight, Merry Christmas... I'm clear.

By Robert Shafer W9SVL (A Silent Key) Retold by WA9UXP Modifications for this version by Bruce, N6TFS (December 1992 & 1993)

Enjoy! 73, Bruce N6TFS @ N6YN.#SOCA.CA.USA.NA

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

Year 2001 Membership Renewal

Date _____

License class (check only one)

o Novice o Technician o Technician+ o General o Advanced o Extra

Membership (check only one)

o Associate ……. $15.00
o Family……. $15.00
o Regular ……. $15.00
o Life with/'Chatter .. $10.00 (minimum to cover the 'Chatter costs)

Name _____ Callsign _____

1st address _____

2nd Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____-_____

Do you wish to start/continue to receive the 'Chatter via E-mail?

o Yes E-Mail address _____

o No Comment _____

Now that the repeater has been relocated, do you use the repeater?

o Yes o No

Comment: _____

_____

Other Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Events (upcoming)

*** indicates VE testing**

HAMFEST/COMPUTER SWAP 2000
SUN. - DEC. 3, 2000
L'anse Creuse High School
Mt. Clemens, MI
T/I on 147.080 + or 146.52 simp.

MRAC Christmas Dinner and Party
SUN. - DEC. 3, 2000
Patio Club
Milwaukee, WI

WARAC *
29th Annual Midwinter SwapFest
SAT. - JAN. 6, 2001
Waukesha Co. Expo Center Forum
Waukesha, WI

SOUTH BEND HAMFEST
SUN. - JAN. 14, 2001
T/I on 145.29 -

MID WINTER HAMFEST
SUN. - JAN. 28, 2001
Chicago Motor Speedway
Cicero, IL

SEWFARS SWAPFEST
SUN. - MAR. 4, 2001
Waukesha Expo Center
Waukesha, WI
T/I on 146.82 MHz (PL 127.3)

TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOC.
HAMFEST/COMPUTER FAIR
SUN. - MAR. 18, 2001
Lucas Co. Recreation Cntr.
Maumee OH

Dec. & Jan.

Donald L. Virlee	KG9II	11/03
Harry A. Cieszki	K4VKW	12/02
Michael C. Eagen	K0RRP	12/03
Douglas A. Pavek	W9FDX	12/06
Mike J. O'Donnel	N9PSM	12/09
James J. Herriges	WB9RSK	12/10
Patrick J. Moretti	KA1RB	12/10
Lester A. Peterson	W9YCV	12/10
Donald E. Behrens	KD9FK	12/14
Thomas Sherlowsky	N9UFJ	12/27
Robert J. Graushar	WA9TID	12/28
Jerry G. Riedel	KA9AJFI	12/30
Warren L. Schall	K9IZV	01/02
Herbert J. Stich	KA9LDT	01/02
Jerry Thompson	W9SFH	01/16
Clifford J. Staeven	AA9VL	01/19
John Koehler	W9DGB	01/22
Lester O. Gerlach	W9UPM	01/28
Richard D. Helz	WG9I	01/31
Richard L. McNew	WB9PTC	01/31

73 de Brian - K9LCQ

Brian K9LCQ

Visit our website at:

¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

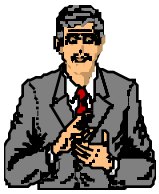
Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP WB9LNU KB9PRC K9LCQ KB(SLC

Thanks to Rita Doneis and Kristi Potochnik for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

We would also like to thank Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendrickson for taking care of



the refreshments at our meetings.

Also our thanks goes to Tom Scherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

And a Big Thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many thanks!!

Christmas Party

Vern Teske - W9YRA has been working on plans for the Christmas party.

He has has reserved the Patio Club at 1421 E. Howard Ave. for Sunday - December 3. We will gather at 5:00PM. and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - November 30, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: **Build a J-Pole antenna (see inside)**
Matt Planning - KB9PRC

Location: **Redemption Lutheran Church**
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!!!

Board meeting: **Mon. -November 27, 2000**

Next meeting: **January 25, 2001**

HamateurChatter
Deadline is
January 1, 2001

November's Program

Build a J-Pole antenna.

Our Repeater is an open one.
Use it or lose it!!!
147.045⁺ MHz

M. R. A. C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset
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